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JOANNE MATTERA ART BLOG

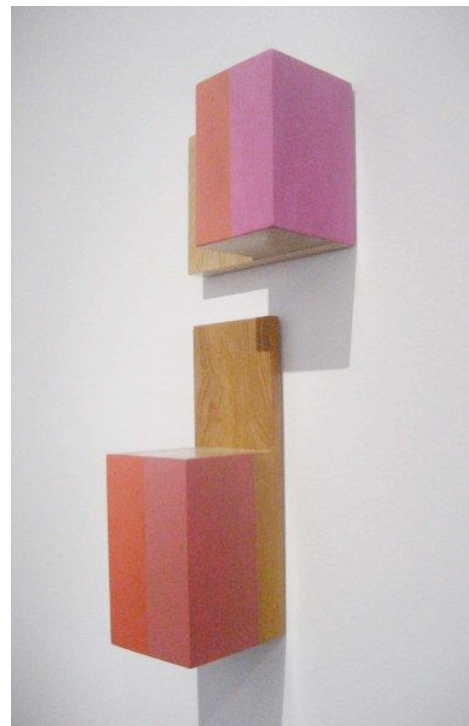
Kevin Finklea: Active Equipoise

By: Joanne Mattera
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My introduction to Giampietro Gallery in New Haven came at the Scope Fair during Armory week in New York City. Though I was unfamiliar with the gallery, I was impressed with the work: strong paintings and sculptures by established midcareer artists. So when I learned that my friend **Kevin Finklea**, who shows at Pentimenti in Philadelphia and Thatcher Projects on 23rd Street, would be having a solo show there, I made a point of going to see it. I drove, but you could easily take Amtrak (hint, hint). The show, titled *All the things that cannot be said*, is up through May 25.

Finklea creates small geometric sculptures in painted wood. His concerns are “color and balance,” which he more than achieves. Viewing them at eye level and at various points above and below, I felt a desire to touch them. I couldn’t, of course, so the act of beholding them with my eyes became an almost intimate act. Contributing to this sense of intimacy are the sensuousness of the wood—though Finklea told me that some of the pieces started out as scraps from other projects—and the lusciousness of the color, which I’d call saturated pastels of similar value.

The formal concerns of the work keep it from become too intimate, yet the sheer gorgeous of the materials leave the gate open in a way that rigorous reduction does not. It’s a balancing act that keeps the viewer in a state of active equipoise.



Free Falling Divisions #20 over Free Falling Divisions #15, both 2011, acrylic on poplar and plywood